Small Satellites for Atmospheric Studies

2832. DR. VIJAY MALLYA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to State:

(a) whether Government have encouraged ISRO to launch small satellite missions to study the earth's atmosphere;

(b) by when would ISRO take up the new proposal called the Small Satellites for Atmosphere and Space Science for effective monitoring of earth's atmosphere to find solution to global warming and changing weather conditions; and

(c) whether the major focus of this mission would be to delineate the changes that are taking place in the atmosphere in the South Asian region?

THE MINSITER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The small Satellite for Atmosphere and Space Science is planned to be launched in 3-4 years time. The Satellite is intended primarily to monitor atmosphere aerosols and trace gases like Ozone (O3), Carobon Monoxide (CO) and water vapor, which influence the radiation budget of atmosphere system.

(c) Yes, Sir. The satellite will be able to cover the measurement over the large oceanic region of this part.

National Statistical Commission

2833. SHRIMATI N.P. DUGRA: Will the Minister of STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to set up the National Statistical Commission;

(b) if so, the aims and objectives thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government are thinking of merging the Central Statistical Organization and the National Sample Survey Orgnization; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?